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Medical Simulations Technician Roger Cowart Jr. gives Gov. Jan Brewer a demonstration of the facility's \$350,000 training dummy during a tour of the remodeled Scottsdale Healthcare Military Training Center on Wednesday. The training dummy can bleed, breathe and talk.

Helping save lives on the battlefield

By Sonja Haller
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The Scottsdale Healthcare Military Training Center is saving lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, military and political leaders said, during the dedication of the \$1.6 million facility on Wednesday.

Gov. Jan Brewer, National Guard Bureau Chief Craig McKinley, Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane and other dignitaries extolled the partnership between Scottsdale Healthcare and the military at the dedication of the 7,500-square-foot facility.

McKinley said that after almost 10

years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military trauma training center addresses the concerns of his boss, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I think that this will make sure the men and women who take care of so much, will be taken care of," he said.

He said that Mullen also worries about a growing disconnect between military personnel and civilians.

"This great facility will lend itself to encouraging the strong bond between civilians and members of the military," McKinley said.

Since 2004, Scottsdale Healthcare has

trained more than 1,000 military personnel to treat the injured.

The remodeling of the existing facility adjacent to Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center, 7400 E. Osborn Road, resulted in upgraded high-tech equipment and expanded space that resembles mock battlefield intensive-care units. It includes a \$350,000 lifelike training dummy that can bleed, breathe and talk.

Funding came from a congressional appropriation as part of the fiscal 2009 Defense appropriations bill. Construction was completed in October.

Former Arizona Congressman Harry Mitchell, who supported the funding, said the training facility offers the most up-to-date experience in treating head wounds, burns and trauma to eyes and ears such as those inflicted by the blasts seen in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The injuries are different than past conflicts," Mitchell said. "This training has helped countless service members



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Air Force Maj. Gen. Kimberly Siniscalchi (left) and Arizona National Guard Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar attend the dedication of the training center in Scottsdale.

Trauma-training facility dedicated

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survive battlefield injuries that would have been fatal in other conflicts."

Luke Air Force Base's Major Kathleen Brinker said the training facility's simulations and the hospital emergency-room work that is part of that training mirrored multiple mass-casualty situations in Iraq, where she was deployed in June.

"What we went through was exactly how we did it in the theater," she said.

Brinker, a medical surgery nurse, said she was able to jump in and assist

with trauma duties when those nurses that specialized in emergency training were already busy with other injured soldiers.

Major Brian Sydnor, of Luke Air Force Base, went through the training in April. Sydnor, a pharmacist, was deployed to Honduras and said the training got him up to speed when gunshot victims came through.

"They needed IV medication, not pills," he said.

Brewer called the program, which partners with Luke Air Force Base and the Arizona Air National Guard, a model private/public partnership for the state.